

Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649
 (812) 944-2305
www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Sundays
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
 Worship..... 10:30 AM
 Worship..... 6:00 PM

Wednesdays
 Bible Study..... 7:30 PM

Elders
 Allen L. Morris..... 812-967-4536
 Stephen W. Nale..... 812-948-9917

Deacons
 Jeffrey B. Hunt..... 502-931-5766
 Elbert Metcalf..... 812-246-5938
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr.... 812-944-8295

Editor
 Stephen W. Nale..... 502-727-7559

Beginning Our 66th Year Dec. 3, 2023

Goals For 2023
Theme
 "Courageous Christians in 2023!"
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40:
Sunday AM: 50
Sunday PM: 40: Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Support the Work in Vincennes, Indiana
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

Gary Henry
 will be preaching today.

We are on week # 6 of our daily Bible reading.

Prayer List
 Sharon Nale, Polly Ward, Macon Ward, Debby Spears (Roseanna's sis) Sharon Thompson, Kay Thompson Beth McFarland, Pam Caudill Brooke Thomas, Cathie Hall Debbie Lewellen, Ronnie Kahl John Kelly (Rob's brother), Peter Hunt, Capps famuthoriily Condolences to Metcalf family

This Month
 Phil. 1:1, 1 Tim. 3:1-15
 Authority: Church Organization

Who Have You Invited To Services This week?

Lord's Supper Reading
 Luke 22:14-20

Scripture Reading
 AM: John 16:33
 PM: 2 Cor. 14:16

Encouragement Tally
 Invites this month 6
 Invites last month: 8
 Visitors YTD:

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Place Stamp Here



Our Theme for 2024...
"Respecting Bible Authority"
 Matt. 28:18
 Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy.
 Clarksville, IN 47129
First Service December 7, 1958

The
Clarksville Beacon
 www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org



Volume 36 Number 5

Clarksville Church of Christ

February 4, 2024

Strength for the Journey

Welcome!
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, 1 Pet. 4:11.

VISITORS
 Please fill out a visitor's card or scan the QR code below and provide the information requested.



Text: John 16:33
 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Jesus knew that His apostles would face great hardship as His ambassadors to the world. On the night before His humiliation and death, He wanted to encourage them: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace." The peace Jesus offered, however, was not exactly what they might have wished. It would not come from the removal of their hardships, but from the strength to go through them. And He did not even say He would give them the strength; He simply said they should rejoice knowing of His strength: "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." While you and I are not apostles, I believe the Lord would say the same thing to us. Whatever may trouble us, our joy should come from knowing that He has overcome the source of that trouble and will one day crush the enemy completely (1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Revelation 21:4).

There is, of course, no better example of this mindset than Jesus Himself. As He prayed in Gethsemane, He prayed that He might not have to suffer the death of the cross, but His greater desire was that His Father's will would be done (Mark 14:35,36). Similarly, Paul prayed that his "thorn in the flesh" might be removed, but God's answer was, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Paul's response was admirable: "Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

From the Lord's example, and also Paul's, we learn that our Father wants us to ask Him honestly for what we desire. But if He answers in terms of "endurance" more than "deliverance," we can accept His wisdom gratefully, knowing "there's a great day coming by and by" when our enemy will be overthrown and imprisoned forever, never again to afflict God's people. Let us, then, adjust our prayer life. May we pray less for "all these things" and more for "the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).

"The purpose of Christianity is not to avoid difficulty, but to produce a character adequate to meet it when it comes. It does not make life easy; rather it tries to make us great enough for life" (James L. Christensen).

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com + AreYouaChristian.com

Each Day is a Part of the Process

2 Corinthians 4:16

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Progress is one of the best things in life. It's also one of the most important. David Livingstone, the intrepid Scottish explorer, famously said, "I will go anywhere as long as it's forward." If that's true for explorers, it's even more true for Christians.

As Paul wrote about his difficulties, he wanted to put the emphasis on his spiritual condition rather than his outward circumstances. He said, "Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." None of Paul's attitudes is more worthy of our imitation than this one. We might, like our brother, be "perishing" physically, but spiritually it is always possible to be "renewed" each day. Compared to this kind of growth, any other kind of progress in life seems trivial.

Most Christians would agree that what has just been said is true. However, our daily to-do lists may not show spiritual growth to be our priority. Perhaps we think that attending church services and upholding correct doctrine will be enough; our spiritual growth will take care of itself. But being "renewed day by day," as Paul put it, does not happen accidentally or coincidentally; it requires deliberate attention. It takes time and even some of our money. As with anything important, the real evidence will be found in our time record and list of expenditures. If we want to make progress, we must pay conscious attention to it, doing daily the things God has designed for our growth — things like Bible study, prayer, private worship, and meditation on God's law "day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

When we turned away from our old life and were baptized into Christ, God "delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). But at that point, we were newborn babies in the kingdom, needing to grow up. So, no matter how long we've been "walking in Christ," let's not underestimate the work that remains to be done on our hearts and minds. As we press forward, let's be patient. Each day is a part of the process by which we "are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

"Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion — it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more Christlike" (Billy Graham).

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com + AreYouaChristian.com

NOTES: _____

Establishing Authority. Is it Really That Hard? Part 2

Respecting God's Clearly Communicated Will

Direct Commands/Statements

This form of communication should be the easiest to understand. When a parent tells their child to do a chore, it is universally understood that the child is meant to understand that command and do it. It shouldn't change when it comes to God's commands.

Think back to the story of Noah. "*Make for yourself an ark...*", God commanded (Gen. 6:14). Would it have been reasonable for Noah to have thought or said, "*Well, God I just don't know if I understand what you're trying to tell me?*" It would've been anything but reasonable. God created us with the capacity to understand and obey Him. In fact, it would've been strange had God given Noah that command while knowing he could never act on it.

Frankly, any denial of this being both commonsensical and authoritative is either a rejection of plain human reasoning or a direct attempt to shirk from God's commandments.

Divinely Approved Examples

"*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ*" (1 Cor. 11:1). What is Paul authoritatively explaining to Christians? He's telling them to imitate what **example** he has **shown** them!

Can anyone honestly and rationally suggest that divinely approved examples aren't meant to be taken authoritatively? So emphatic is Paul in this that when he says, "*For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example...*" (2 Thes. 3:7), he ties in a just condemnation for not following it (vv. 6, 14).

Again, if anyone denies this as being both logical and authoritative they are either rejecting common sense communication or they are attempting to justify "*undisciplined/unruly*" living (2 Thes. 3).

Necessary Inferences

An *inference* is, "*A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning.*" So a necessary inference is simply a forced/unavoidable conclusion based on information received.

When God told Noah to build an ark because a flood was coming, a forced conclusion would be that if he didn't build one he would be wiped away in the flood as well. Is that reasonable? Absolutely! Did God have to specify that in exact words to make it clear? No, because it was very obviously **implied**.

God inspired Peter to say, "*Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you...*" (1 Pet. 3:21a). Is it fair to infer that though this is verbalized as a statement and not a command (excluding other passages) that you can't become a Christian without being baptized? Not only is it fair, but it's necessary if we want to be considered a child of God.

God does not have to add my name to any given command for it to be binding on me. Whenever He reveals His will, it is implied that we would honestly hear it and apply it to our lives (Jas. 1:22). To repeat for the last time, if anyone denies that this is reasonable and authoritative it is either because they are either confused as to how we express ourselves to each other or they are deliberately trying to escape the forced conclusions of what God has clearly expressed to His creation.

Luke Capps